

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 152338 ACTION TOKYO OTTAWA BONN LONDON
PARIS INFO GENEVA BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE
LUXEMBOURG ROME STOCKHOLM EC BRUSSELS DATED 28 JUN 75
QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING,
JULY 4

REF: A) GENEVA 4475; B) STATE 36542

1. EARLIER THIS YEAR BOP COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DRAFT REPORT
ON ITS ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. REPORT WAS
INITIATED BY BOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUNKEL (SWITZERLAND)
AND IS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMPILATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S
WORK DURING 1970-74. THE REPORT'S ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL AND
HISTORICAL APPROACH PLACES IN SHARP RELIEF MANY OF THE
INADEQUACIES AND INCONSISTENCIES OF EXISTING GATT BOP
CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, AS NOTED IN REFTTEL A.

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2. WE CONSIDER THE REPORT AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR FURTHER

EXAMINATION OF THIS SUBJECT IN BOP COMMITTEE AND HAVE SO INDICATED IN PREVIOUS BOP SESSIONS (FEBRUARY 24 AND APRIL 24) AS WELL AS IN APRIL 17 MEETING OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES GROUP OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE GATT CPS SHOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT BOP COMMITTEE AS IT PURSUES WHAT SHOULD BE USEFUL REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROCEDURES WHICH ARE CLEARLY UNSATISFACTORY.

3. DESPITE THE PREPARATORY NATURE OF BOP COMMITTEE WORK IN THIS AREA, SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS SUCH AS JAPAN AND CERTAIN EC COUNTRIES (FRANCE, FOR EXAMPLE) HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO GO ALONG WITH MEANINGFUL TREATMENT OF SUBJECT IN BOP COMMITTEE. THIS FOOTDRAGGING, WE BELIEVE, IS MORE A MANIFESTATION OF THEIR APPREHENSIONS WITH RESPECT TO BOP REFORM IN GENERAL THAN WITH COMMITTEE'S WORK IN THIS AREA PER SE. IN ADDITION WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT MANY DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY INSTRUCTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EXERCISE.

4. THE BOP COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS RE SPECIFIC REFORMS FOR FEAR OF FRIGHTENING OFF THE MORE CAUTIOUS DELEGATIONS WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S PRESENT ACTIVITIES COULD PREJUDICE THEIR FUTURE NEGOTIATING POSITION IN THE MTN. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SPELLED OUT SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION (REFTEL B), WE ARE NOT PRESSING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THESE POINTS AT THIS TIME. RATHER WE ARE MERELY SEEKING TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF BOP COMMITTEE SELF-EXAMINATION OF ITS ROLE AND PROCEDURES BY HAVING A MEANINGFUL LIST OF QUESTIONS FORWARDED TO THE GATT COUNCIL, WHICH WILL MEET MID-JULY, POINTING OUT SOME OF THE MORE OBVIOUS INCONSISTENCIES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF EXISTING CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. WE CONSIDER THIS A RATHER MODEST OBJECTIVE WHICH SHOULD NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR ANY

DELEGATIONS.

5. DRAWING ON THIS AND PREVIOUS GUIDANCE IN REFTELS A AND B, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD MAKE LOW KEYED BUT FIRM DEMARCHES TO APPROPRIATE HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS URGING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THEY INSTRUCT THEIR GENEVA REPS TO TAKE A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE POSTURE TOWARD THIS EXERCISE AND CONCUR IN FORWARDING A MEANINGFUL LIST OF QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

6. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS VIA PRIORITY CABLE WITH INFO TO GENEVA. INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE

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